

# **Summary of First Year as Editor-in-Chief of Quality of Life Research**

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Broxton Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

# Outline

QLR background

Main goals as editor

Duties as editor

Challenges

- > A. Manuscript flow
- > B. Associate editors
- > C. Reviewers
- > D. Authors
- > E. Impact factor
- > F. Improving daily operations



# Editor-in-Chief History

**Maurice Staquet, Founding Editor, 1992-1998**

**Neil Aaronson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Editor, 1999-2005**

**Ron Hays, 3<sup>rd</sup> Editor, 2006-2011**

# Main Goals as Editor

## 1) Prompt feedback

If you do not hear back from us about your manuscript within 3 months of submitting it, please send me an email ([drhays@ucla.edu](mailto:drhays@ucla.edu)) so I can check into its status and get back to you with further information.

## 2) Helpful feedback (not just boilerplate letter)

# Duties as Editor

Articles screened and assigned

Monitor progress of manuscripts and provide feedback to editors

Decide on self-assigned manuscripts and write decision letters

Look at proof of articles

Order articles to be published

Instrument development and evaluation

Value and preference assessment

Clinical and policy applications

Respond to queries from editors and authors

# Challenge A: 209 Manuscripts in 2005

Vol/Iss	Print Publication Date	Pages	No. of Articles
14.1	02-22-05	1 - 283	25
14.2	04-08-05	285 - 573	29
14.3	06-17-05	575 - 909	32
14.4	06-21-05	911 - 1202	28
14.5	06-28-05	1203 - 1441	25
14.6	07-25-05	1443 - 1650	20
14.7	08-15-05	1651 - 1794	14
14.8	09-30-05	1795 - 1975	19
14.9	10-15-05	1977 - 2170	abstracts
14.10	12-13-05	2171 - 2358	17

# 2006 (88 published, 71 in press)

Vol/Iss	Pages	No. of Articles	Acceptance Date Range
15.1	1 - 184	18	1 <sup>st</sup> June to 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept
15.2	191 - 312	10	3 <sup>rd</sup> July to 30 <sup>th</sup> July
15.3	315 - 370	26	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug to 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept
15.4	575 - 766	18	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept to 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov
15.5	767 - 940	16	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov to 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec
15.6			
15.7			
15.8			
15.9			
15.10			

# Increase in Number of Submitted Manuscripts

2004 -----→ 343

2005 -----→ 426

2006 -----→ 248 (half year)

# Challenge B: Associate Editors

1. John Brazier  
Health Economics and Decision Science, University of Sheffield, UK
2. Henrica C.W. De Vet  
EMGO Institute, VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
3. Chi-Hung Chang  
Northwestern University, Chicago
  
- \* Diane Fairclough  
Colorado Health Outcomes Program and Dept. of Preventive Medicine and Biometry, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, USA
- \* David Feeney  
Institute of Health Economics, Edmonton, Canada
4. Graeme Hawthorne  
University of Melbourne, Australia
- \* Jeanne M. Landgraf  
HealthAct, Boston, MA, USA
- \* Kathleen N. Lohr  
RTI International, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA
5. Elaine McColl  
University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
6. Carol M. Moinpour  
Southwest Oncology Group Statistical Center, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA, USA
7. Luis Rajmil  
Catalan Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Research, Barcelona, Spain
8. Michael Ritsner  
Faculty of Medicine, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Sha' ar Menashe Mental Health Center, Israel
9. Carolyn Schwartz  
DeltaQuest Foundation, Concord, MA, USA
10. Albert W. Wu  
Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, Baltimore, MD, USA

# Tenure ends

2006 Wu

2007 McColl

2008 de Vet

2009 Hawthorne, Rajmil, Ritsner, Schwartz

2010 Brazier, Chang

Moinpour?

# Spreading the Work Load

Decisions Made in Last 12 Months Time Interval by Each Editor

Editor	Reject	Accept	Revise	Under Review	Total
	3	0	1	8	12+
	0	0	0	4	4++
	5	1	6	2	14+
	8	3	6	1	18
	6	5	10	0	21
	2	0	4	8	14+
Aaronson	0	1	0	0	1
Hays	136	10	19	11	176
	11	8	3	5	27
	10	7	8	5	30
	8	3	9	2	22
	4	4	2	6	16
	4	3	8	4	19+
	7	11	13	6	37
	18	6	2	6	32
	11	4	6	4	25
Total	233	66	97	72	468

Tenure commenced in January 2006 (+) and May 2006 (++)

# Associate Editor Performance Problem



**Editor who did not  
process manuscripts  
promptly.**

# Challenge C: Reviewers

There is a great deal of reluctance to review.

- 2691 invited to get 1051 reviews (39% participation rate)

Mixed quality of reviews.

- Rating reviews (poor, fair, good, very good, excellent)

Editorial manager software provides information on reviewer history.

# Reviewer Excuse (1)

**Reason: sorry but I am busy reviewing a PhD thesis where I will be the first opponent so no time**

**Kind regards**

## **Reviewer Excuse (2)**

**Reason: Thank you for asking me to review the paper. I am sorry that I cannot do it now, because I have to many things to do and will be traveling for some weeks, I am sorry!**

# Reviewer Excuse (3)

**Reason: I am out of town currently.**

## **Reviewer Excuse (4)**

**Reason: I have completed several reviews this year & need to get to other things.**

**Offhand I can't think of another qualified QOL reviewer-my apologies.**

**[Note: Asked to review 6 different times (02-18-04, 04-13-04, 11-29-04, 11-09-05, 12-05-05, 05-20-06) and declined every time.]**

# Reviewer Excuse (5)

**Reason: I am unable.**

**I do not even understand the title.**

**Happy Holidays!**

# Reviewer Excuse (6)

**Reason: i know nothing about nursing homes.**

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As long as you know something about health-related quality of life that is ok. You don't need to be an expert about nursing homes as long as you know what a nursing home is and can imagine what it is like (or have visited one).

But if you just don't want to review the paper, it is fine to say so. We have asked you to review 8 times and you have declined 5 times, been un-invited twice when we didn't get a response, and you agreed one time but then did not submit a review.

=====

**I am really too busy right now to devote the necessary time to review papers.**

**I very much appreciate the opportunity to work with you, but right now is not a good time.**

# Challenge D: Authors

I sent your revised manuscript back to the three original reviewers for assessment (see comments below). With regret, I must inform you that, based on the advice received, I have decided that your manuscript cannot be accepted for publication in Quality of Life Research.

The most important factor in the decision was the following comment by Reviewer 2: "The authors refer very briefly (p.6) to a much large and comprehensive validation study of the XXX published in yyy (2006, not available in the previous review process), and I was surprised not to find any mention of this study in the introduction since the results of the present study overlap with these previous results to some degree. What new does the present study bring to this larger cross-cultural study?"

I was also surprised that the published study was only mentioned in passing on page 7 of the revised manuscript because it has a much more impressive sample (5087 people from 18 countries) and conveys essentially the same message as this study of 285 people in one country. (Presumably the 283 people from the UK in the yyy paper are different from the 285 people in the current paper.) As a result, the unique contribution of the current paper to the literature appears to be minimal.

# Authors continued

Dear Dr. Hays,

I received your letter yesterday about our resubmission with astonishment. I take very seriously the referee's assertion that this submission to QOLR is almost the same as that submitted to yyy which shows that s/he read our paper even in a superficial way, nor the one published in yyy.

By email, I will send you a copy of the yyy paper which you can see contains the psychometric properties of the international xxx module. There is no development of theoretical concepts and models there, in the way that there is in the one submitted to QOLR. I will respond to your other points separately.

I request that you conduct an open-minded investigation into this matter quickly and reconsider your decision.

## Authors continued

I appreciate you sending me a copy, but I already had access to the yyy. Before making the decision on the manuscript I read it and the revised version of the manuscript you submitted to Quality of Life Research. The decision on the latter was based on a thorough reading of both papers.

I'm sorry you feel the referee's reading of the paper was superficial.

# Challenge E: Impact Factor

Cites in 2005 to articles published in:	2004= 200	Published in:	2004 = 151
	2003= 271		2003 = 95
	Sum: 471		Sum: 246

$$\frac{471}{246} = 1.915$$

# Comparison of 2005 Impact Factor

1.915 -> Quality of Life Research

2.538 -> Journal of Clinical Epidemiology

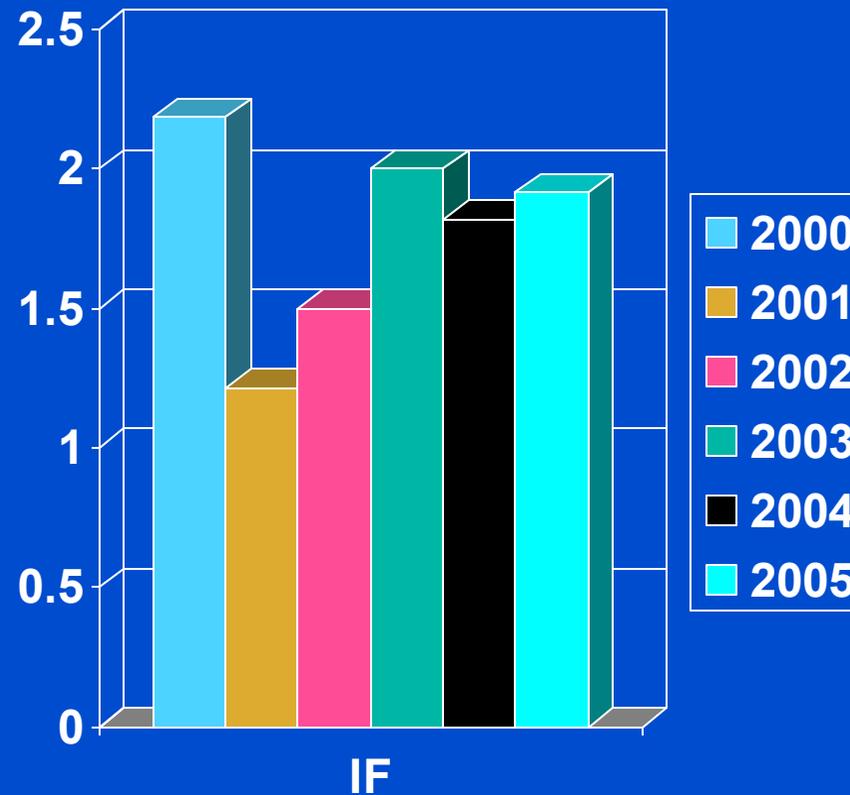
2.619 -> Social Science and Medicine

2.994 -> Medical Care

23.332 -> JAMA

30.927 -> Science

# Trends in Impact Factor



# Most Cited Articles Since 2000

1. Aaronson, N., et al. Assessing health status and quality-of-life instruments: Attributes and review criteria (2002 pub.; 82 cites)
2. Revicki, D. A., et al. Recommendations on health-related quality of life research to support labeling and promotional claims in the United States (2000 pub.; 63 cites)
13. Bing, E. G., et al. Health-related quality of life among people with HIV disease: Results from the Multicenter AIDS cohort study. (2000 pub.; 26 cites)

# Challenges: Improving Daily Operation

Instructions to Authors:

3,500 word limit (regular); 1,500 word limit (brief communications)

Structured abstract

Authorship requirements: “substantial contribution to the work (all authors should have been involved in (a) conception and design, or analysis and interpretation of data, and (b) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content)”

# Use of Editorial Manager Software

**Default letters and reports**

# Questions?

